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OUNDING-BALLOON OBSERVATIONS MADE AT GROESBECK, TEX., DURING THE INTERNATIONAL MONTH, OCTOBER, 1927

629.132.1 : 551.506 (764)

By L. T. SAMUELS.

[Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., 1929]

Forty-four sounding balloons were released and 37 (84 per cent) of the instruments were returned. Table 1 is a general summary of the individual observations. In Figure 1 are shown the landing places and corresponding dates. Notwithstanding the predominance of easterly winds to considerable heights nearly all of the balloons landed to the east of Groesbeck. This was due of course to the stronger westerly winds which prevailed at the higher levels. (See figs. 4 and 5.)

It will be noted that in the case of the highest observation (27,671 meters) viz., 6:31 a. m., 15th, the instrument landed only 16 kilometers away as compared with a number of others which did not go so high but landed at considerably greater distances. The balloon released at 4:03 p. m., 18th, landed only 6 kilometers from the station although it reached a height of more than 16 kilometers. In this case the horizontal distance traveled during the ascent alone must have exceeded 34 kilometers, in view of the wind velocity and time the balloon was in the air. The fact that the winds were successively NE., E., SE., S., SW., and W. brought the balloon almost back to its starting point.

It is interesting to note the similarity of the landing places in certain consecutive flights, e. g., those of the 13th, 14th, and 15th.

The average free-lift used was 750 grams. The balloons were made of cut sheet rubber, were 1 meter in diameter and inflated to about 1.5 meters. The Fergusson meteorograph was used.¹

The weather conditions were exceptionally favorable for long theodolite observations and in practically every case the balloon was followed with two theodolites for a considerable time. In 6 cases this exceeded 100 minutes and in 26 cases it exceeded 60 minutes. In 29 cases, including some of those in which the instrument was not returned but followed with two theodolites, the balloon penetrated the stratosphere.

The average height and temperature of the tropopause as determined from 22 observations are shown in Table 1 and were 14,823 meters and -65.5° C., respectively. These figures for Royal Center for the series made in May, 1926² were 12 kilometers and -58.4° C., indicating as was to be expected, a greater height and lower temperature of the tropopause for the more southern station.

The highest observation was that of 6:31 a. m. of the 15th when an altitude of 27,671 meters was reached.

In Figure 2 is shown the mean temperature curve determined from 24 observations made on as many days during the month, practically all being made in the afternoon. It is interesting to compare with this curve, the one based on the morning kite observations made during the same month. It will be noted that the morning temperatures are lowest from the surface to 3 kilometers but slightly higher than the afternoon temperatures from 4 to 5 kilometers.

The altitude and temperature of the base of the stratosphere for the individual observations are indicated in this figure by dots with the corresponding dates. The extreme range was from 17,467 meters, -78.3° C. at 4:43 p. m. of the 9th to 11,695 meters, -55.6° C. at 6:35 a. m. of the 17th, the temperature, it will be noted, varying inversely as the height of the tropopause. This inverse relationship is well shown in Figure 2. At Royal Center² the extreme range in the height of the tropopause was from 14.6 kilometers, -70.9° C. to 8.9 kilometers, -44.5° C., the extreme limits of which, as would be expected, were lower in height. The range in height of the tropopause, it will be noted, was practically the same at both stations, viz., 5.7 kilometers, but the range in the temperature of the tropopause was several degrees greater at Royal Center.

The greatest average lapse rate occurred between 7 and 8 kilometers. (See fig. 2.) This was in identical agreement with the Royal Center observations.²

Figure 3 shows the average relative humidity as determined from 12 observations on as many days, the reason for the smaller number as compared with those used for temperature in Figure 2, is that not all of the instruments were equipped with humidity elements and also not all of the humidity records were legible due to the number of rotations of the clock cylinder after the instrument had landed. Neither of these objectionable factors, however, are anticipated in the series planned for December, 1929.

The mean humidity curve determined from 24 morning kite observations has been included in this graph for comparison. Since the balloon data in this figure are based on only half the number of kite observations, agreement of a very high order would not be expected. However, with this difference considered, the general similarity is striking. A prominent feature of this graph

¹ S. P. Fergusson, New Aerological Apparatus, MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, June, 1920.

² International Aerological Soundings at Royal Center, Ind., May, 1926, MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, July, 1927.

is the small variation in relative humidity above 10 kilometers, especially in the stratosphere.

In Figure 4 are shown the wind velocity curves for each day. This series of wind observations is probably the highest ever obtained at one station during a single month. A number of striking features are evident. Foremost of these is the consistent decrease of velocity in the stratosphere. It will be noted that the decrease begins, in general, about 2 kilometers below the average height of the stratosphere. In the 11 observations extending to 17 kilometers or higher the velocity dropped to less than 10 m. p. s. at these upper levels. The highest velocities occur at about 12 or 13 kilometers. The maximum velocity recorded in the entire series was 42.5 m. p. s. at 12 kilometers on the 9th.

In Figure 5 are shown the wind direction curves for each day. Several features are strikingly apparent in this diagram, viz., the wide variation in direction at the surface and lower levels; the veering or backing to westerly at about 12 kilometers, i. e., the same height at which the velocity begins to decrease (see fig. 4); the consistent westerly direction between 12 and 17 kilometers and the shift to easterly above 18 kilometers, i. e., where the velocities have again reached a general minimum.³

In Figure 6 are shown the mean wind velocity and direction curves based on the same observations as those shown in figures 4 and 5, i. e., not more than one on the same day and mostly in the afternoon. The mean velocities were determined independently of the directions and therefore these should not be considered together for any particular level.

It will be noted that the average velocity reaches a maximum at 13 kilometers or about 2 kilometers below the average height of the tropopause. (See figs. 2 and 4.) Above 13 kilometers the average velocity decreases at about the same rate at which it increases in the levels below.

The mean wind direction considered without regard to velocity (fig. 6), veers sharply between 1.5 and 2 kilometers from south-southeasterly to northwesterly. A large northerly component persists from 2.5 to 6 kilometers, above which the westerly component predominates to 19 kilometers, where a further veering occurs and an easterly component becomes increasingly predominant.

In Figure 7 are shown the individual temperature curves for the series. The temperatures ($^{\circ}$ C.) for the surface and maximum altitude are indicated in each case. Isotherms for 0° C., -25° C. and -50° C. have been drawn and show the general character of the fluctuations in temperature at these general elevations. It will be noted that the -50° C. line fluctuates more than the two lower lines which fact is in agreement with other sounding balloon series. The small fluctuation in the 0° C. line is striking. A comparison of Figure 7 with a similar chart drawn for the Royal Center observations² shows these three isotherms to be, in general, each about 1 kilometer higher at Groesbeck than at Royal Center.

In Figure 8 are shown the free-air isotherms for the month. It will be noted that the stratosphere was relatively cold between the 9th and 14th and again on the 20th. Sea-level barometric pressure gradients were not pronounced at Groesbeck during the month and there was no apparent connection between the height of the tropopause and the sea-level pressure as is usually found in more northerly latitudes. Likewise, no definite relationship was found between the temperature of the stratosphere and the wind direction, there being very

little north or south component between 12 and 17 kilometers. (See fig. 5.)

Table 2 contains the tabulated data for each observation.

For references regarding all previous sounding balloon observations made in the United States, see Table 7 of reference.²

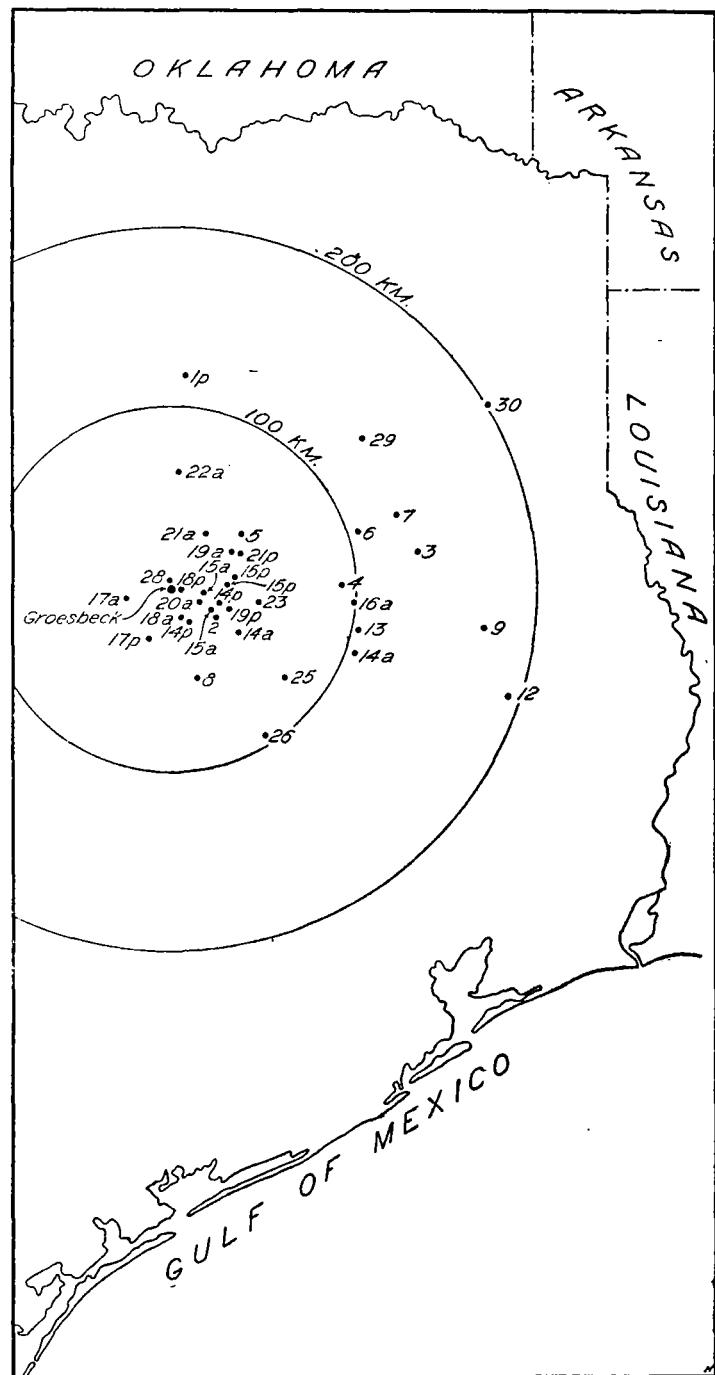


FIGURE 1.—Landing places (with dates) of sounding balloons released from Groesbeck, Tex., during October, 1927.

It is expected that these data will be published by the International Commission for the Exploration of the Upper Air, including those for the principal isobaric levels, the latter indicating geo-dynamic meters, instead of geometric heights; also tephigrams.

³ William R. Blair, The Planetary System of Convection, MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, April, 1916.

² International Aerological Soundings at Royal Center, Ind., May, 1926, MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, July, 1927.

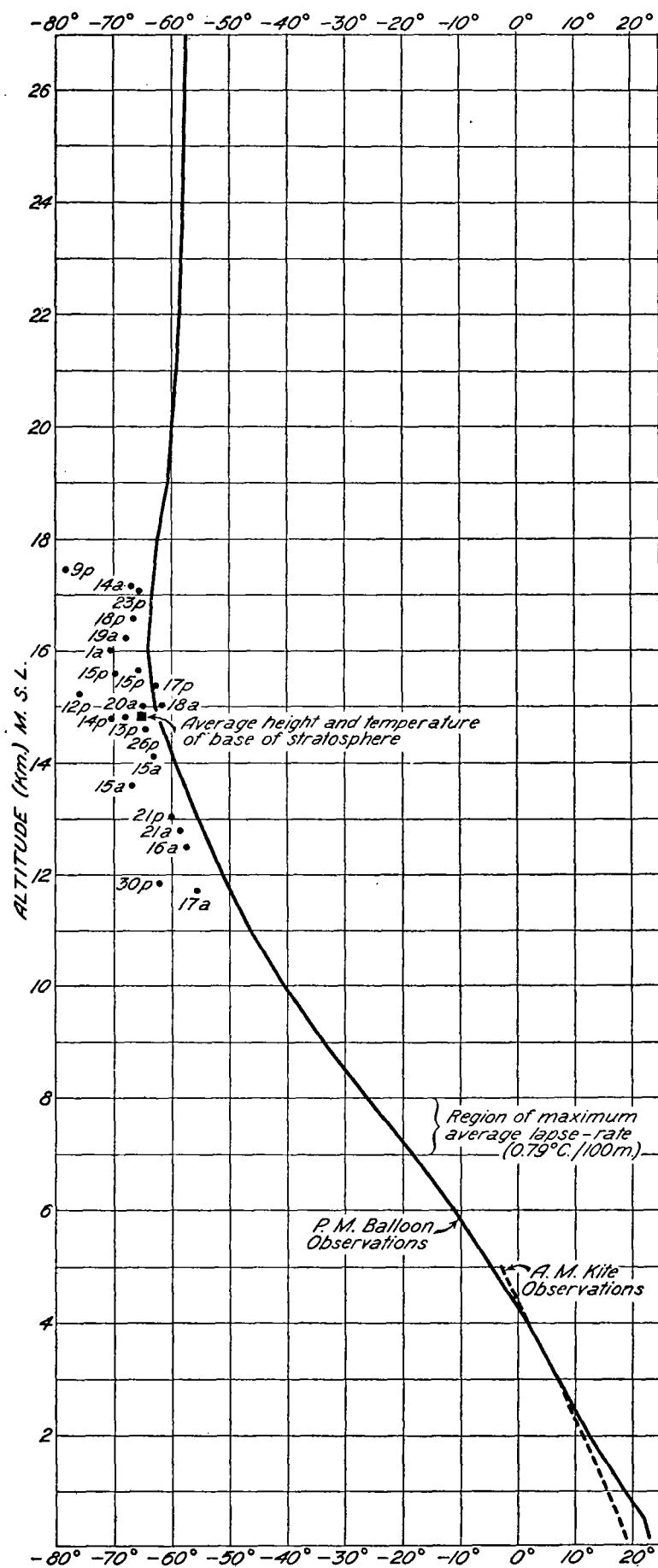
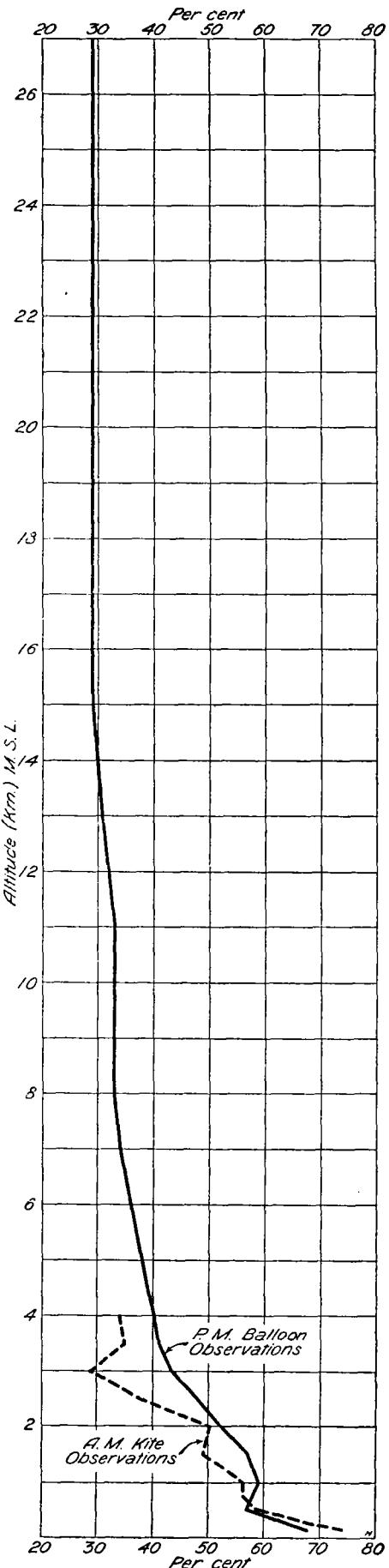
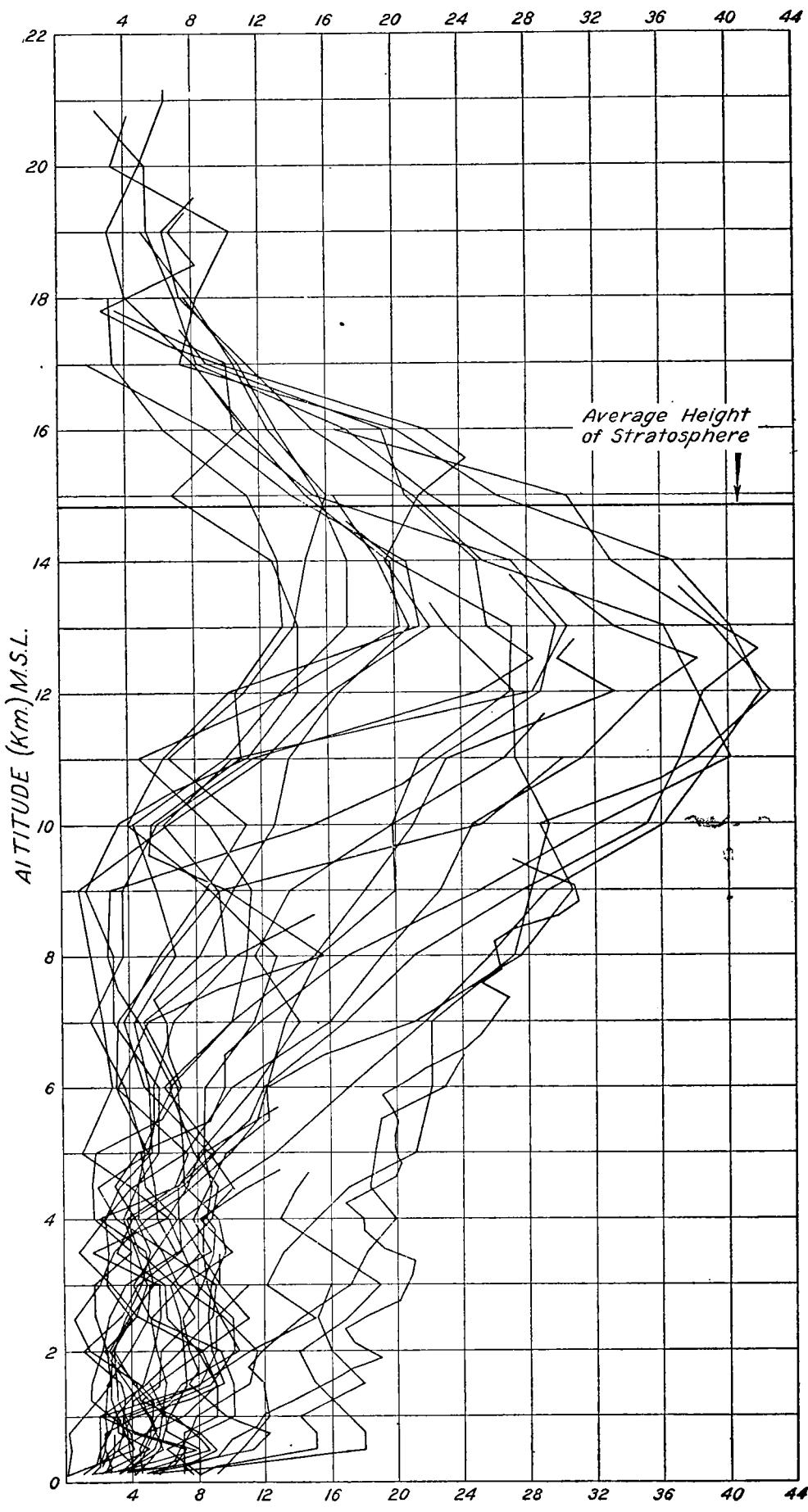
FIGURE 2.—Mean temperature curve ($^{\circ}$ C.), Groesbeck, Tex., October, 1927

FIGURE 3.—Mean relative humidity curve, Groesbeck, Tex., October, 1927



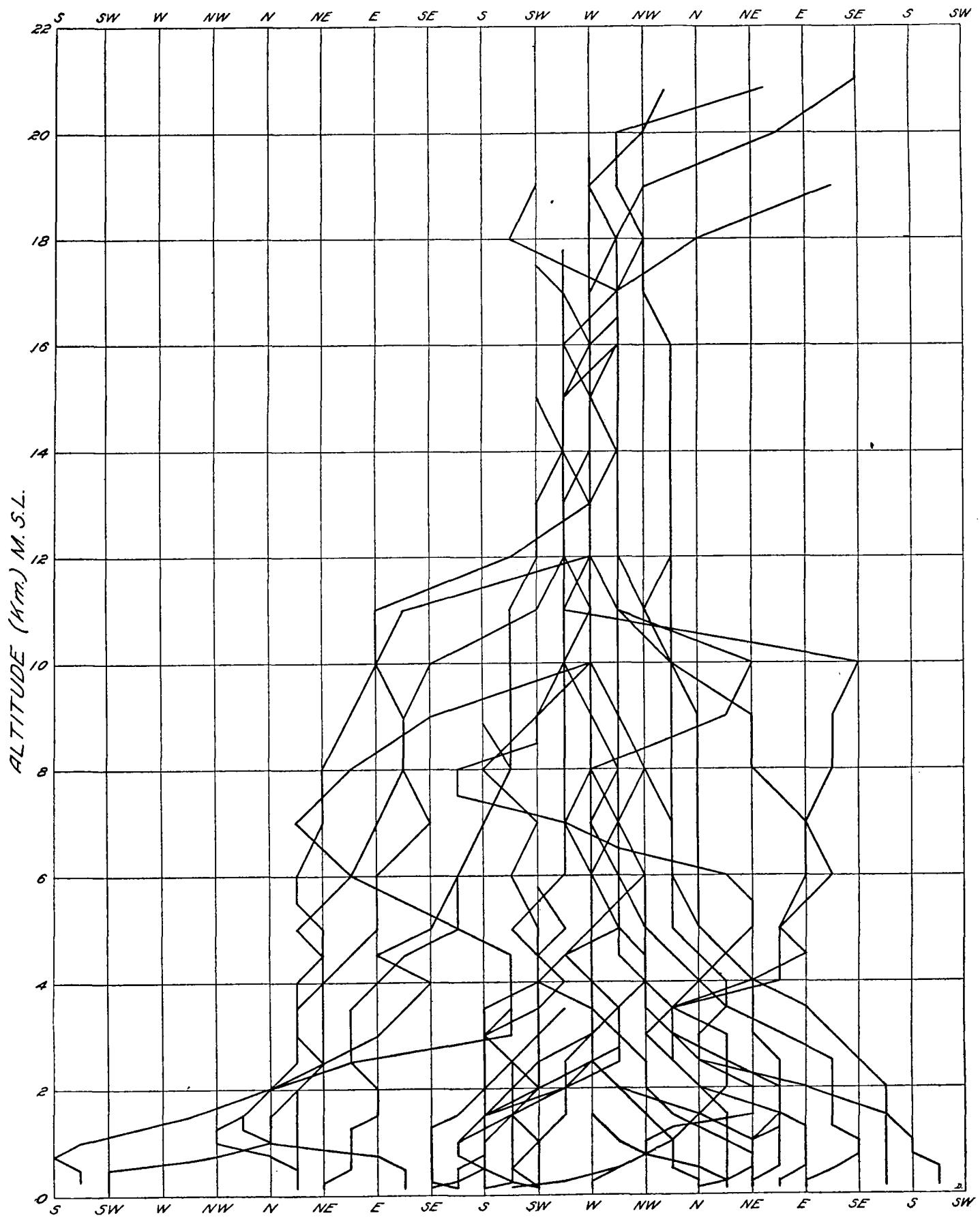


FIGURE 5.—Daily wind direction curves, Groesbeck, Tex., October, 1927

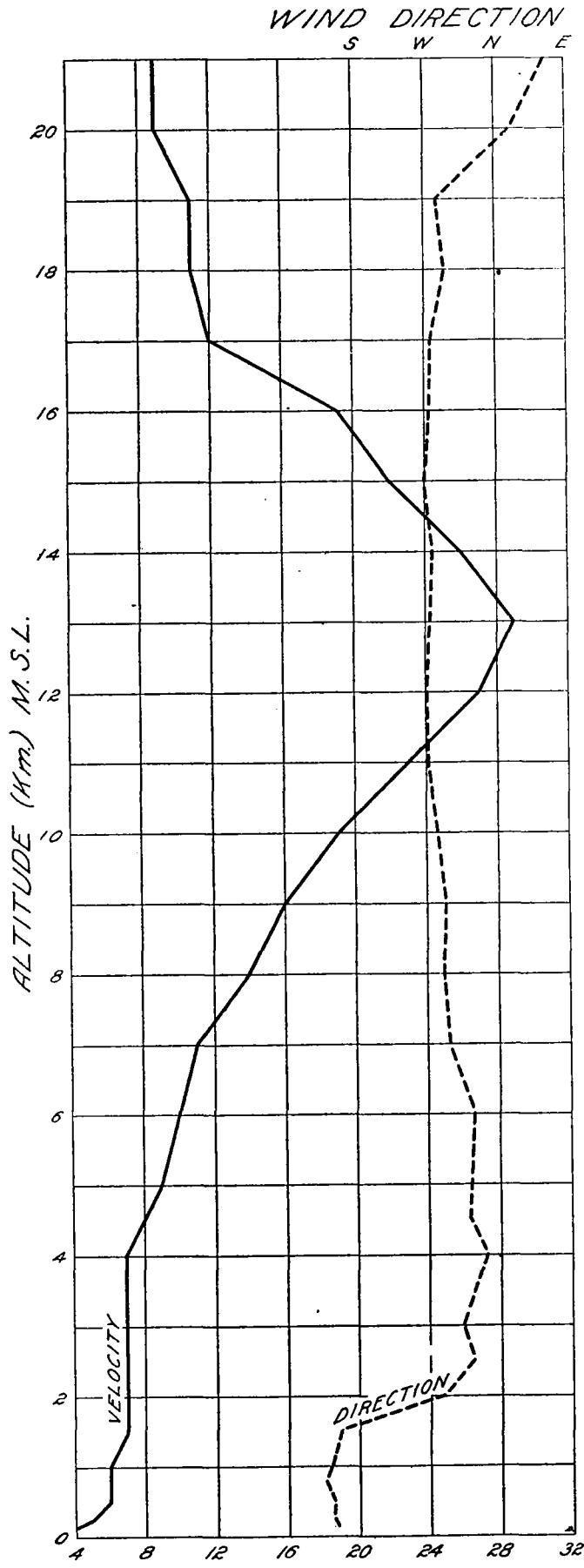


FIGURE 6.—Mean wind velocity (m. p. s.) and direction curves, Groesbeck, Tex., October, 1927

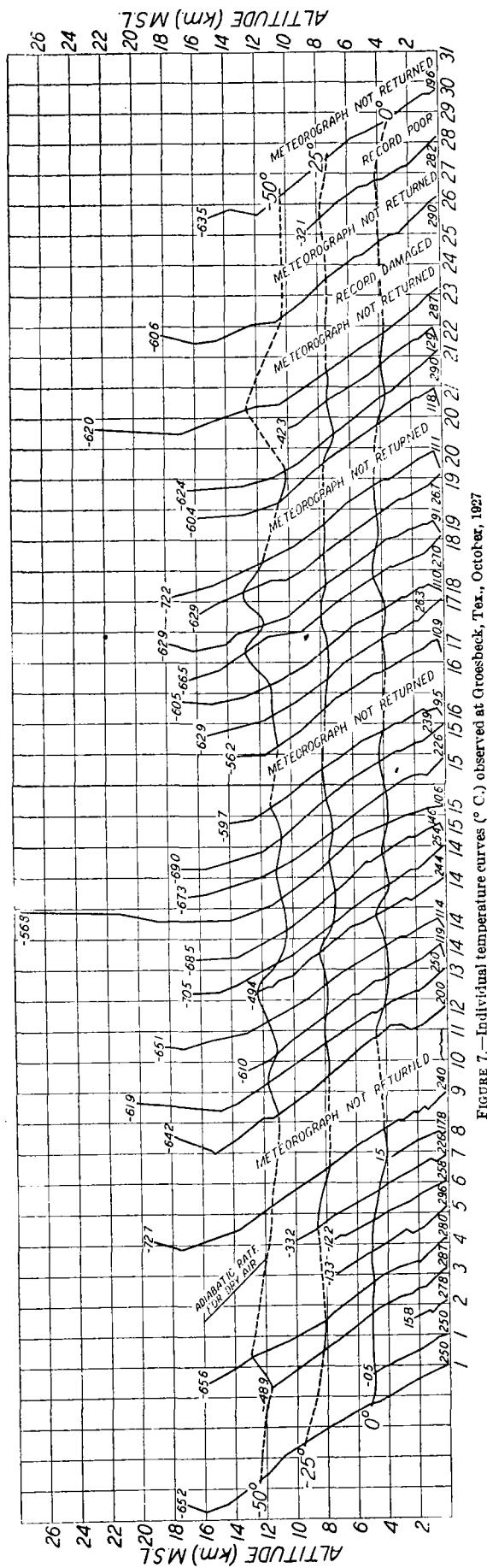


FIGURE 7.—Individual temperature curves ($^{\circ}$ C.) observed at Grossbeck, Tex., October, 1927

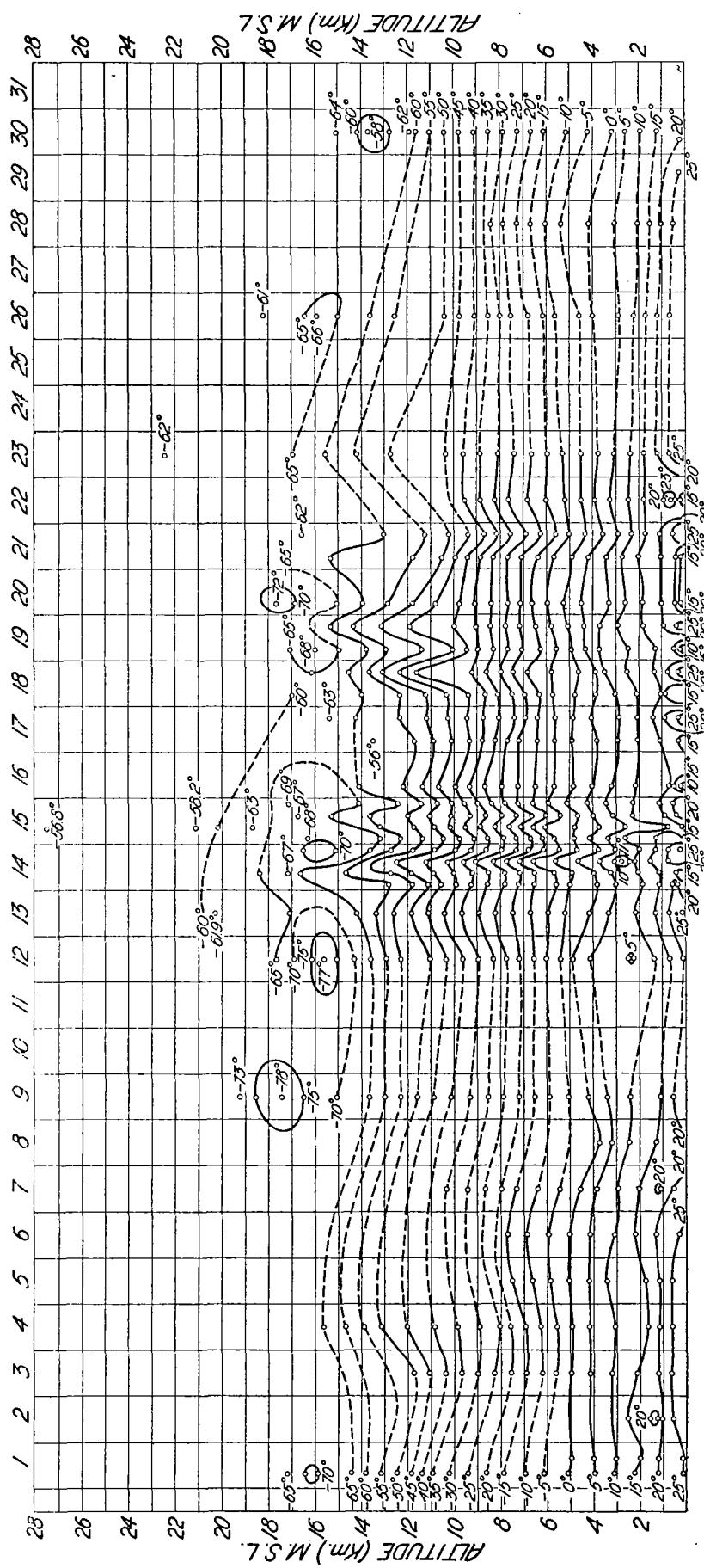


FIGURE 8.—Free-air isotherms ($^{\circ}$ C.) observed at Grossbeck, Tex., October, 1927

TABLE 1.—Summary of Observations

| October, 1927 | Time of release (ninetieth meridian) | Stratosphere | | Maximum height reached above mean sea level | Minimum temperature recorded | Meteorograph found place | From Groesbeck— | | Balloons, free-lift | Theodolite observations observed with— | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|--|---------------|
| | | Height of base above sea level | Temperature at base | | | | Distance | Direction | | 1 theodolite | 2 theodolites |
| | | Meters | °C. | Meter | °C. | | | | | | |
| 1 | 10:10 a. | 15,999 | -70.3 | 17,210 | -70.3 | La Rue, Tex. | Kilometers | Grams | Minutes | Minutes | |
| 1 | 5:09 p. | | | 5,054 | -0.5 | Gaston, Tex. | 97 | NE. | 962 | 14 | 2 |
| 2 | 4:56 p. | | | 2,350 | 15.8 | Farrar, Tex. | 117 | N. | 300 | 8 | 5 |
| 3 | 5:16 p. | | | 11,619 | -48.9 | Rusk, Tex. | 29 | SE. | 262 | 42 | 0 |
| 4 | 5:22 p. | (?) | (?) | 19,648 | -65.6 | Elkhart, Tex. | 135 | ENE. | 553 | 66 | 65 |
| 5 | 4:48 p. | | | 7,461 | -14.1 | Steward's Mill, Tex. | 74 | ENE. | 660 | 61 | 61 |
| 6 | 4:46 p. | | | 7,493 | -12.2 | Neches, Tex. | 48 | NE. | 457 | 77 | 73 |
| 7 | 5:20 p. | | | 10,077 | -33.2 | Jacksonville, Tex. | 97 | NE. | 307 | 32 | 32 |
| 8 | 5:06 p. | | | 3,744 | 1.5 | Easterly, Tex. | 116 | ENE. | 407 | 2 | 0 |
| 9 | 4:43 p. | 17,467 | -78.3 | 19,240 | -78.3 | Lufkin, Tex. | 48 | SSE. | 320 | 0 | |
| 10 | 4:35 p. | | | 20,620 | | Not returned | 166 | E. | 730 | 90 | 83 |
| 11 | 4:42 p. | | | 1,6,310 | | do | | | 780 | 70 | 79 |
| 12 | 4:54 p. | 15,198 | -75.6 | 17,833 | -76.7 | Manning, Tex. | | | 835 | 57 | 24 |
| 13 | 4:26 p. | 14,791 | -67.9 | 20,300 | -67.9 | Crockett, Tex. | 130 | ESE. | 630 | 45 | 0 |
| 14 | 12:04 a. | | | 13,007 | -61.0 | do | 113 | E. | 662 | 108 | |
| 14 | 6:28 a. | 17,165 | -66.6 | 18,406 | -66.6 | Jewett, Tex. | 109 | E. | 937 | 15 | 15 |
| 14 | 12:05 p. | | | 12,243 | -49.4 | Oletha, Tex. | 32 | E. | 790 | 64 | 63 |
| 14 | 3:53 p. | 14,796 | -69.9 | 16,545 | -70.5 | Farrar, Tex. | 21 | E. | 1,187 | 103 | 102 |
| 15 | 12:06 a. | 13,501 | -67.0 | 16,316 | -68.5 | do | 27 | SE. | 580 | 97 | 89 |
| 15 | 6:31 a. | 14,087 | -63.0 | 27,671 | -63.4 | Personville, Tex. | 24 | SE. | 997 | 17 | 15 |
| 15 | 12:11 p. | 15,030 | -66.1 | 16,776 | -67.3 | Freestown, Tex. | 16 | SE. | 1,005 | 81 | 75 |
| 15 | 4:07 p. | 15,563 | -69.4 | 17,150 | -69.4 | do | 29 | E. | 1,190 | 65 | 63 |
| 16 | 6:33 a. | 12,527 | -57.3 | 14,018 | -59.7 | Grapeland, Tex. | 32 | E. | 780 | 71 | 69 |
| 16 | 3:58 p. | | | 17,052 | | Not returned | 97 | E. | 970 | 108 | 106 |
| 17 | 6:35 a. | 11,695 | -55.6 | 13,512 | -56.2 | Ben Hur, Tex. | | | 680 | 111 | 110 |
| 17 | 4:15 p. | 15,375 | -62.9 | 17,921 | -62.9 | Kosse, Tex. | 23 | WSW. | 802 | 44 | 35 |
| 18 | 6:34 a. | 15,017 | -62.2 | 16,978 | -62.2 | Oleatha, Tex. | 29 | SSW. | 680 | 123 | 118 |
| 18 | 4:03 p. | 16,561 | -66.5 | 16,561 | -66.5 | Groesbeck, Tex. | 19 | SE. | 995 | 70 | 67 |
| 19 | 6:34 a. | 16,221 | -67.6 | 17,801 | -67.6 | Dew, Tex. | 6 | E. | 930 | 74 | 67 |
| 19 | 3:44 p. | | | 15,805 | -62.9 | Donie, Tex. | 37 | ENE. | 950 | 80 | 78 |
| 20 | 6:27 a. | 15,033 | -64.9 | 17,631 | -72.2 | Personville, Tex. | 29 | ESE. | 720 | 70 | 62 |
| 20 | 3:45 p. | | | 8,890 | | Not returned | 19 | E. | 970 | 67 | 65 |
| 21 | 6:30 a. | 12,893 | -58.4 | 15,908 | -60.4 | Kirven, Tex. | | | 660 | 52 | 52 |
| 21 | 4:04 p. | 13,004 | -59.9 | 16,538 | -62.4 | Fairfield, Tex. | 32 | NE. | 797 | 64 | 63 |
| 22 | 6:25 a. | | | 10,014 | -42.3 | Corsicana, Tex. | 51 | NE. | 712 | 63 | 58 |
| 23 | 4:31 p. | 17,089 | -65.8 | 22,528 | -65.8 | Buffalo, Tex. | 71 | N. | 592 | 88 | 83 |
| 24 | 3:59 p. | | | 6,19,325 | | Not returned | 43 | ESE. | 735 | 108 | 103 |
| 25 | 3:45 p. | | | 7,13,490 | | Dickey, Tex. | | | 850 | 77 | 77 |
| 26 | 3:58 p. | 14,603 | -64.5 | 18,202 | -66.2 | Iola, Tex. | 89 | ESE. | 710 | 100 | 54 |
| 27 | 3:51 p. | | | 8,21,450 | | Not returned | 113 | SE. | 640 | 97 | 80 |
| 28 | 4:03 p. | | | 8,610 | -32.1 | Groesbeck, Tex. | | | 890 | 73 | 73 |
| 29 | 4:03 p. | | | 9,2,060 | | Chandler, Tex. | 3 | N. | 745 | 33 | 33 |
| 30 | 3:51 p. | 11,853 | -62.0 | 15,019 | -63.5 | Longview, Tex. | 124 | NE. | 850 | 8 | 8 |
| 31 | 3:57 p. | | | 10,2,610 | | Not returned | 188 | NE. | 820 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | 750 | 45 | 9 |

¹ Temperature record lost above 15,735 meters.² Height determined from two theodolite observations at end of seventy-eighth minute.³ Height determined from two theodolite observations at end of twenty-fourth minute.⁴ Height determined from two theodolite observations at end of one hundred and third minute.⁵ Height determined from two theodolite observations at end of forty-eighth minute.⁶ Height determined from two theodolite observations at end of seventy-seventh minute.⁷ (Record damaged) height determined from two theodolite observations at end of fifty-fourth minute.⁸ Height determined from two theodolite observations at end of seventy-third minute.⁹ (Record inaccurate) height determined from two theodolite observations at end of eighth minute.¹⁰ Height determined from two theodolite observations at end of ninth minute.

TABLE 2.—Tabulated data

OCTOBER 1, 1927

| Time 90th mer. | Altitude, M. S. L. | Pressure | Temperature | Δt 100 m. | Humidity | | Wind | | Remarks |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| | | | | | Relative | Vapor pres- sure | Direction | Velocity | |
| A. m. | M. | Mb. | °C. | P. ct. | Mb. | M. p. s. | | | |
| 10:10... | 141 | 994.2 | 25.0 | 92 | 29.16 | 6.7 | | | |
| | 250 | | 24.5 | 93 | 28.62 | se. | | | |
| | 500 | 955.0 | 23.3 | 94 | 26.91 | sse. | 14.1 | | |
| | 750 | | 22.1 | 95 | 25.29 | sse. | 15.9 | | |
| | 771 | 925.4 | 22.0 | 0.48 | 95 | 25.14 | sse. | 16.1 | |
| | 1,000 | 900.8 | 20.9 | | 95 | 23.49 | | | |
| | 1,250 | | 10.7 | | 95 | 21.81 | | | |
| | 1,500 | 849.0 | 18.5 | | 95 | 20.24 | | | |
| | 2,000 | 802.3 | 16.2 | | 95 | 17.50 | | | |
| | 2,056 | 797.2 | 15.9 | 0.47 | 95 | 17.17 | | | |
| | 2,500 | 758.9 | 13.4 | | 94 | 14.46 | | | |
| | 3,000 | 716.5 | 10.6 | | 93 | 11.89 | | | |
| | 3,500 | 675.5 | 7.8 | | 92 | 9.73 | | | |
| | 4,000 | 635.0 | 4.9 | | 91 | 7.88 | | | |
| | 4,500 | 595.0 | 2.1 | | 90 | 6.39 | | | |

TABLE 2.—Tabulated data—Continued

OCTOBER 1, 1927—Continued

| Time 90th mer. | Altitude, M. S. L. | Pressure | Temperature | Δt 100 m. | Humidity | | Wind | | Remarks |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| | | | | | Relative | Vapor pres- sure | Direction | Velocity | |
| A. m. | | M. | °C. | 10:23... | 4,642 | 584.2 | 1.3 | 0.56 | |
| | 5 | 5,000 | | | 5,593 | 0.9 | 0.4 | | |
| | 5 | 5,325 | | | 537.0 | -0.5 | 0.26 | | |
| | 6,000 | | | | 492.7 | -4.3 | | | |
| | 7,000 | | | | 434.0 | -10.0 | | | |
| | 7,382 | | | | 413.7 | -12.2 | 0.57 | | |
| | 8,000 | | | | 382.5 | -16.0 | | | |
| | 9,000 | | | | 335.5 | -22.3 | | | |
| | 10,000 | | | | 292.9 | -28.5 | | | |
| | 10,854 | | | | 268.9 | -33.8 | 0.62 | | |
| | 11,000 | | | | 253.5 | -35.4 | | | |
| | 12,000 | | | | 220.1 | -46.5 | | | |
| | 12,023 | | | | 219.6 | -46.7 | 1.11 | | |
| | 13,000 | | | | 191.0 | -53.8 | | | |
| | 14,000 | | | | 163.9 | -61.1 | | | |
| | 14,552 | | | | 149.4 | -65.1 | 0.73 | | |
| | 15,000 | | | | 139.0 | -66.7 | | | |
| | 15,999 | | | | 118.9 | -70.3 | 0.36 | | |
| | 17,000 | | | | 101.3 | -66.1 | | | |
| | 17,210 | | | | 97.0 | -65.2 | 0.42 | | |

Cloudy throughout day.

Superadiabatic.

Base of stratosphere.

TABLE 2.—*Tabulated data—Continued*
OCTOBER 21, 1927—Continued

| Time 90th mer. | Altitude, M. S. L. | Pressure | Temperature | Δt 100 m. | Humidity | | Wind | | Remarks |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | Relative | Vapor pres- sure | Direction | Velocity | |
| A. m. 6:48 | M. 5,313 | 536.1 | -7.6 | 0.68 | P. ct. 30 | Mb. 0.97 | se. | 2.6 | |
| | 6,000 | 489.3 | -12.4 | | 28 | 0.59 | se. | 3.4 | |
| | 7,000 | 429.8 | -19.5 | | 26 | 0.29 | se. | 8.8 | |
| 6:54 | 7,271 | 414.9 | -21.4 | 0.71 | 25 | 0.23 | sse. | 9.9 | |
| | 8,000 | 377.5 | -27.3 | | 24 | 0.12 | sse. | 8.3 | |
| 7:00 | 8,542 | 351.4 | -31.7 | 0.81 | 24 | 0.08 | ssw. | 3.8 | |
| | 9,000 | 329.0 | -35.9 | | 24 | 0.06 | ssw. | 5.5 | |
| | 10,000 | 283.0 | -45.1 | | 24 | 0.02 | sw. | 6.8 | |
| 7:11 | 10,655 | 257.0 | -51.1 | 0.92 | 24 | 0.01 | sw. | 10.1 | Adiabatic. |
| | 11,000 | 244.0 | -52.3 | | 24 | 0.01 | sw. | 14.9 | |
| | 12,000 | 210.0 | -55.6 | | 24 | 0.01 | sw. | 18.9 | |
| 7:22 | 12,833 | 184.7 | -58.4 | 0.34 | 24 | 0.01 | sw. | 19.4 | Base of strato- sphere. |
| | 13,000 | 179.9 | -58.5 | | 24 | 0.01 | sw. | 18.2 | |
| | 14,000 | 153.8 | -59.2 | | 23 | 0.01 | sw. | 18.7 | |
| 7:31 | 15,000 | 132.0 | -59.8 | | 23 | 0.01 | wsW. | 17.2 | |
| | 15,908 | 114.5 | -60.4 | 0.07 | 22 | 0.01 | | | |

OCTOBER 21, 1927

| P. m. | 141 | 997.6 | 29.0 | | 37 | 14.84 | Calm. | 4 Ci., SSW. | |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|------|----|-------|-------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | 250 | 28.0 | | | 38 | 14.38 | ne. | 0.1 | |
| | 500 | 25.7 | | | 39 | 12.89 | nne. | 0.3 | Clear in morning; |
| | 750 | 23.4 | | | 41 | 11.81 | n. | 0.2 | partly cloudy in |
| | 1,000 | 903.8 | 21.1 | | 43 | 10.77 | nw. | 1.0 | afternoon. |
| | 1,250 | | 18.8 | | 44 | 9.55 | nw. | 2.0 | |
| 4:08 | 1,355 | 868.0 | 17.8 | 0.92 | 45 | 9.18 | nnw. | 2.2 | Adiabatic. |
| 4:09 | 1,453 | 858.0 | 17.6 | 0.20 | 32 | 6.44 | nnw. | 2.5 | |
| | 1,500 | 853.3 | 17.2 | | 32 | 6.28 | nnw. | 2.7 | |
| | 2,000 | 804.8 | 13.0 | | 30 | 4.49 | n. | 2.6 | |
| 4:12 | 2,431 | 764.0 | 9.3 | 0.85 | 29 | 3.40 | nne. | 2.3 | |
| | 2,500 | 757.5 | 8.7 | | 30 | 3.38 | n. | 1.8 | |
| | 3,000 | 712.9 | 4.3 | | 33 | 2.74 | e. | 2.0 | |
| 4:16 | 3,323 | 685.2 | 1.4 | 0.88 | 36 | 2.13 | e. | 4.3 | |
| | 3,500 | 670.2 | -0.1 | | 36 | 2.18 | ese. | 4.0 | |
| 4:18 | 3,988 | 631.2 | -2.1 | 0.53 | 36 | 1.85 | se. | 1.8 | |
| | 4,000 | 630.1 | -2.2 | | 36 | 1.84 | se. | 1.8 | |
| | 4,500 | 591.6 | -6.2 | | 36 | 1.31 | e. | 1.6 | |
| 4:23 | 5,000 | 554.2 | -10.2 | | 36 | 0.93 | se. | 1.8 | |
| | 5,390 | 520.5 | -14.1 | 0.80 | 36 | 0.65 | sse. | 5.6 | |
| | 6,000 | 488.1 | -18.1 | | 33 | 0.41 | sse. | 6.9 | |
| | 7,000 | 427.0 | -25.9 | | 28 | 0.16 | s. | 6.1 | |
| 4:30 | 7,353 | 405.4 | -28.6 | 0.78 | 26 | 0.11 | ssw. | 5.0 | |
| | 8,000 | 371.1 | -34.0 | | 26 | 0.06 | ssw. | 8.0 | |
| | 9,000 | 321.8 | -42.3 | | 27 | 0.03 | ssw. | 9.5 | |
| 4:38 | 9,348 | 305.4 | -45.2 | 0.83 | 27 | 0.02 | ssw. | 8.8 | |
| | 10,000 | 276.7 | -49.3 | | 27 | 0.01 | ssw. | 12.6 | |
| 4:44 | 10,937 | 241.1 | -54.2 | 0.63 | 27 | 0.01 | ssw. | 13.1 | |
| | 11,000 | 239.0 | -54.4 | | 27 | 0.01 | ssw. | 13.4 | |
| 4:53 | 12,000 | 206.0 | -57.1 | | 27 | 0.01 | sw. | 16.2 | |
| | 13,004 | 175.5 | -59.9 | 0.28 | 27 | 0.01 | sw. | 21.0 | Base of strato- sphere. |
| | 14,000 | 153.0 | -60.6 | | 27 | 0.01 | sw. | 18.9 | |
| | 15,000 | 132.2 | -61.3 | | 27 | 0.01 | sw. | 16.2 | |
| | 16,000 | 111.8 | -62.0 | | 27 | 0.01 | sw. | 19.8 | |
| E:06 | 16,538 | 100.6 | -62.4 | 0.07 | 27 | 0.01 | | | |

OCTOBER 22, 1927

| A. m. | 141 | 999.0 | 12.9 | | 93 | 13.84 | Calm. | 3 Ci., S. (2 layers), 1 Ci., Cu., SW. | |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|--|-------------------|
| | 250 | 15.9 | | | 80 | 14.46 | ssw. | 2.4 | |
| | 500 | 957.8 | 22.8 | | 52 | 14.45 | ssw. | 4.3 | |
| | 516 | 956.1 | 23.2 | -2.75 | 50 | 14.23 | ssw. | 4.3 | |
| | 750 | | 21.4 | | 50 | 12.75 | s. | 3.8 | Inversion. |
| | 1,000 | 903.8 | 19.4 | | 50 | 11.27 | ssw. | 2.7 | |
| | 1,250 | 17.4 | | | 50 | 9.94 | sw. | 1.4 | |
| 6:33 | 1,493 | 853.6 | 15.5 | 0.79 | 50 | 8.80 | wnw. | 1.4 | |
| | 1,500 | 852.8 | 15.5 | | 50 | 8.80 | wnw. | 1.5 | |
| 6:34 | 1,730 | 830.0 | 15.1 | 0.17 | 38 | 6.52 | nw. | 2.4 | |
| | 2,000 | 804.0 | 13.3 | | 38 | 5.31 | n. | 2.3 | |
| | 2,500 | 756.7 | 10.1 | | 37 | 4.57 | ene. | 2.6 | |
| | 3,000 | 713.0 | 6.9 | | 36 | 3.58 | ssw. | 3.6 | |
| 6:43 | 3,210 | 695.0 | 5.5 | 0.65 | 36 | 3.25 | sw. | 4.7 | |
| | 3,500 | 671.0 | 3.1 | | 36 | 2.75 | ssw. | 6.6 | |
| | 4,000 | 631.1 | -1.1 | | 37 | 2.06 | ssw. | 5.5 | |
| | 4,500 | 592.5 | -5.3 | | 38 | 1.49 | ssw. | 5.3 | |
| 6:53 | 4,710 | 576.5 | -7.1 | 0.84 | 38 | 1.28 | s. | 3.4 | |
| | 5,000 | 555.3 | -8.9 | | 37 | 1.07 | sse. | 5.0 | Partly cloudy |
| | 6,000 | 488.3 | -15.3 | | 32 | 0.52 | sse. | 5.2 | to 10 a. m., then |
| 7:02 | 6,007 | 487.9 | -15.3 | 0.63 | 32 | 0.52 | sse. | 5.2 | cloudy to 5 p. m. |
| | 7,000 | 428.2 | -21.4 | | 32 | 0.29 | s. | 6.5 | |
| 7:11 | 7,378 | 406.3 | -23.7 | 0.61 | 32 | 0.23 | s. | 7.0 | |
| | 8,000 | 372.8 | -28.3 | | 33 | 0.15 | ssw. | 10.3 | |
| 7:23 | 8,626 | 341.8 | -33.3 | 0.74 | 34 | 0.09 | s. | 15.0 | |
| | 9,000 | 324.5 | -36.3 | | 34 | 0.06 | | | |
| 7:34 | 9,410 | 306.0 | -39.6 | 0.80 | 34 | 0.04 | | | |
| | 10,000 | 280.1 | -42.2 | | 38 | 0.04 | | | |
| 7:53 | 10,014 | 280.3 | -42.3 | 0.45 | 38 | 0.04 | | | |

¹ Instrument was carried about 200 m. higher than maximum altitude tabulated but temperature element was affected by excessive insulation, due to slowing up of ascent.

TABLE 2.—*Tabulated data—Continued*
OCTOBER 23, 1927

| Time 90th mer. | Altitude, M. S. L. | Pressure | Temperature | Δt 100 m. | Humidity | | Wind | | Remarks |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|
| | | | | | Relative | Vapor pres- sure | Direction | Velocity | |
| P. m. 4:31 | M. 141 | 997.0 | 28.7 | | P. ct. 41 | Mb. 16.16 | sw. | 3.6 | 1 Ci., E. St; 0 (?). |
| | 250 | | 27.9 | | | | ssw. | 4.0 | |
| | 500 | 957.9 | 26.1 | | | | s. | 4.7 | |
| 4:34 | 750 | | 24.4 | | | | s. | 5.3 | Clear all day. |
| | 926 | 912.1 | 23.1 | | | | s. | 5.2 | |
| | 1,000 | 904.5 | 22.3 | | | | s. | 5.1 | |
| | 1,250 | | 19.6 | | | | s. | 4.4 | |
| 4:36 | 1,497 | 853.6 | 17.0 | | | | w. | 3.6 | |
| | 2,000 | 804.9 | 13.0 | | | | w. | 2.4 | |
| 4:39 | 2,397 | 767.4 | 9.8 | | | | w. | 3.2 | |
| | 2,500 | 758.0 | 9.0 | | | | w. | 4.3 | |
| | 3,000 | 713.2 | 5.2 | | | | w. | 4.8 | Distant thunder |
| | 3,500 | 670.8 | 1.5 | | | | w. | 4.4 | cloud on nw. |
| 4:45 | 3,642 | 658.9 | 0.4 | | | | w. | 3.9 | horizon about 2 |
| | 4,000 | 630.0 | -1.9 | | | | w. | 4.2 | p. m. |
| | 4,500 | 591.3 | -5.1 | | | | w. | 5.4 | |
| 4:52 | 5,000 | 555.0 | -8.2 | | | | w. | 5.5 | |
| | 5,275 | 536.3 | -10.0 | | | | w. | 5.5 | |
| | 6,000 | 489.1 | -15.3 | | | | w. | 5.5 | |
| 4:57 | 6,514 | 456.2 | -19.0 | | | | w. | 4.6 | |
| | 7,000 | 427.0 | -22.4 | | | | w. | 2.8 | |
| 5:03 | 7,934 | 376.0 | -28.9 | | | | w. | 3.1 | |
| | 8,000 | 372.9 | -29.3 | | | | w. | 2.9 | |
| | 9,000 | 324.1 | -36.1 | | | | nne. | 1.2 | |
| 5:13 | 10,000 | 280.4 | -42.9 | | | | ne. | 3.2 | |
| | 10,531 | 239.6 | -46.5 | | | | w. | 6.9 | |
| | 11,0'0 | 212.8 | -46.5 | | | | w. | 6.9 | |
| | 12,000 | 203.2 | -47.6 | | | | w. | 14.0 | |
| 5:20 | 12,046 | 207.9 | -47.6 | | | | w. | 14.0 | |
| | 13,000 | 181.2 | -50.8 | | | | w. | 14.0 | |
| | 14,000 | 155.4 | -54.2 | | | | w. | 12.7 | |
| 5:32 | 14,829 | 136.5 | -57.0 | | | | w. | 6.9 | |
| | 15,000 | 133.1 | -57.7 | | | | w. | 6.5 | |
| | 16,000 | 113.8 | -61.5 | | | | w. | 10.8 | |
| 5:38 | 16,006 | 113.7 | -61.5 | | | | w. | 10.8 | |
| | 17,000 | 97.2 | -65.2 | | | | w. | 7.8 | |
| 5:45 | 17,059 | 95.8 | -65.8 | | | | w. | 7.2 | |
| | 18,000 | 83.5 | -65.2 | | | | w. | 3.3 | |
| | 19,000 | 72.7 | -64.5 | | | | w. | 2.8 | |
| | 20,000 | 63.4 | -63.8 | | | | w. | 4.8 | |
| | 21,000 | 55.0 | -63.1 | </td | | | | | |

TABLE 2.—*Tabulated data—Continued*

OCTOBER 28, 1927

OCTOBER 30, 1927

3:51 --- | 141 | 995.6 | 19.6 | ----- | 78 | 17.80 | wnw. | 11.6 | 8 A. St., SW.; 2 St. Cu.; NW (?).

**THE PASSING OF SIGNAL SERVICE, WEATHER BUREAU ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH AND
CABLE SYSTEMS**

ALFRED J. HENRY

In Weather Bureau Topics and Personnel for May, 1929, the following paragraph appears:

The WEATHER BUREAU's telegraph lines between Cape Henry, Va., and Hatteras, N. C., and between Port Angeles and Tatoosh Island, Wash., the short telegraph line between North Head and Fort Canby, Wash., and the telephone cable between Beaver Island and Charlevoix, Mich., will be transferred to the Coast Guard at the termination of June 30, 1929.

The above order marks the concluding chapter of the period of construction, ownership, and operation by the Signal Service and its successor, the WEATHER BUREAU, of electric telegraph lines and submarine cables for the purpose of obtaining weather reports from and issuing storm warnings to isolated points in various parts of the United States. A brief history of this special activity is presented in the following paragraphs:

In the early seventies the newly organized Signal Service of the Army, having been commissioned by Congress to organize a storm reporting and warning service for the benefit of commerce and navigation, was confronted with the problem of finding ways and means of reaching places not already linked up with any of the existing commercial telegraph or telephone systems. It should also be kept in mind that the Signal Service was a unit in the regular Military Establishment of the country and that one of its functions as such was to provide and maintain prompt communication between the frontier military posts of the Southwest and West with centers of trade and commerce and the War Department in Washington.

TABLE 2.—*Tabulated data—Continued.*

OCTOBER 30, 1927—Continued

| Time 90th mer. | Altitude, M. S. L. | Pressure | Temperature | Humidity | | Wind | | Remarks |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|------------|--------|----------|---------------------|--|
| | | | | Δt | 100 m. | Relative | Vapor pres- sure | |
| P. m. 3:15 | M. | Mb. | °C. | | | | | |
| | 500 | 954.8 | 17.3 | | | | | |
| 3:53 | 564 | 947.8 | 16.9 | 0.64 | | | | Clear to 10 a., then cloudy to 6 p. |
| 3:54 | 750 | | 16.9 | | | | | Isothermal. |
| | 940 | 907.0 | 16.9 | 0.00 | | | | |
| | 1,000 | 900.8 | 16.5 | | | | | |
| | 1,250 | | 14.8 | | | | | |
| | 1,500 | 849.5 | 13.2 | | | | | Thunder first heard at 3:05 p. |
| | 2,000 | 800.0 | 9.8 | | | | | last heard DNp. |
| 4:00 | 2,125 | 787.7 | 9.0 | 0.67 | | | | R. B. 3:18 p. |
| | 2,500 | 752.0 | 6.0 | | | | | E. DNA. 31 st. |
| | 3,000 | 707.7 | 2.0 | | | | | |
| 4:05 | 3,326 | 680.1 | -0.6 | 0.80 | | | | |
| | 3,500 | 665.9 | -1.5 | | | | | |
| | 4,000 | 626.0 | -4.0 | | | | | |
| | 4,500 | 587.4 | -6.6 | | | | | |
| 4:10 | 4,823 | 563.1 | -8.2 | 0.51 | | | | |
| | 5,000 | 550.3 | -8.9 | | | | | |
| 4:14 | 5,699 | 502.8 | -11.7 | 0.40 | | | | |
| | 6,000 | 483.9 | -14.3 | | | | | |
| | 7,000 | 424.4 | -22.8 | | | | | |
| 4:23 | 7,532 | 393.8 | -27.4 | 0.86 | | | | |
| | 8,000 | 368.9 | -31.2 | | | | | |
| | 9,000 | 320.6 | -39.1 | | | | | |
| 4:32 | 9,152 | 314.0 | -40.3 | 0.80 | | | | |
| | 10,000 | 279.3 | -47.1 | | | | | |
| | 11,000 | 241.3 | -55.1 | | | | | |
| 4:44 | 11,853 | 209.5 | -62.0 | 0.80 | | | | |
| | 12,000 | 204.9 | -61.7 | | | | | |
| | 13,000 | 175.0 | -59.6 | | | | | |
| 4:56 | 13,636 | 158.9 | -58.2 | -0.21 | | | | Base of strato- sphere. |
| | 14,000 | 150.4 | -59.6 | | | | | |
| | 15,000 | 128.2 | -63.4 | | | | | |
| 5:06 | 15,019 | 127.9 | -63.5 | 0.38 | | | | |

Base of strato-sphere.

The WEATHER BUREAU's telegraph lines between Cape Henry, Va., and Hatteras, N. C., and between Port Angeles and Tatoosh larger citi

The problem of collecting and distributing meteorological information was solved by the organization in 1871 of the circuit system whereby the Western Union Telegraph Co. set aside certain trunk lines connecting the larger cities of the territory east of the Rocky Mountains with Washington, D. C., for the exclusive use of the Weather Service for such time as was required each day.

The establishment of military telegraph lines connecting military posts with the then outposts of civilization was based on the necessity of protecting frontier settlements from the outbreaks of hostile Indians and lawless men. In the early seventies the frontiers were found in the present States of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Dakotas, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington. In each of these States telegraph lines connecting military posts with each other and the outside world were constructed and operated by the Army Signal Service. At many of the posts a regularly instructed Signal Service man was in charge. It was his duty, moreover, to make at least three meteorological observations daily and telegraph them to the Washington office. At the peak of the period of military telegraph-line construction there were as many as 111 military telegraph stations in operation and at 68 of them full meteorological observations were made and telegraphed daily.

The eastern seaboard of the United States constituted a frontier of a different character, viz, that of isolation, except at a very few points, as regards communication by the electric telegraph; it was moreover, subject to severe and dangerous storms during which the perils of navigation were increased tenfold.